

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 CU-02 OMB-01 EB-07

OIC-02 /083 W

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R 061820Z DEC 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9558

INFO ALL CSCE CAPITALS 219

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLO SACLANT NORFOLK VA

USDOCSOUTH

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 7354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, PARM

SUBJECT: CSCE: CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES; THRESHOLD FOR
NOTIFICATION

REF: GENEVA 7148

1. SUMMARY: US PROPOSAL ON BEHALF OF NATO ALLIES THAT
THRESHOLD FOR NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR MILITARY MANEUVERS BE
EXPRESSED ONLY IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF TROOPS WAS WELL-
RECEIVED BY NEUTRALS AND WAS TREATED GENTLY BY WARSAW
PACT DELS, WHO SAID THEY WOULD GIVE IT CAREFUL ATTENTION.
END SUMMARY.

2. AS PLANNED AT NATO CAUCUS (REFTEL), US REP MADE STATE-
MENT AT DEC 5 MEETING OF MILITARY SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR BELGIAN IDEA THAT THRESHOLD FOR
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NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS BE EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF NUMBER

OF TROOPS ONLY (E.E. WITHOUT MENTIONING UNIT). HE PROPOSED TEXT READING AS FOLLOWS: "THE TERM MAJOR MEANS MANEUVERS IN WHICH AT LEAST 12,000 TROOPS ARE INVOLVED." US REP INDICATED THAT PRECISE NUMBER WAS NEGOTIABLE AND SUGGESTED THAT SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD FIRST CONSIDER THE GENERAL APPROACH INVOLVED IN THIS FORMULATION. HE EXPLAINED THAT TEXT WAS BEING PUT FORWARD AS POSSIBLE BASIS FOR EVENTUAL COMPROMISE AND THAT US DEL WAS NOT PRESSING FOR ANY IMMEDIATE OR HASTY DECISION ON IT.

3. BULGARIAN REP MADE BRIEF, OFF-THE-CUFF COMMENTS ON THE US TEXT AT DEC 5 MEETING, PRIMARILY SUGGESTING THAT IT MIGHT IN PRACTICE GIVE RISE TO AMBIGUITIES. CONSIDERED COMMENTS FROM WARSAW PACT DELS WERE MADE AT FOLLOWING DAY'S MEETING. THEY WERE NOTABLY MILD, AVOIDED REJECTING THE US PROPOSAL AND EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD BE GIVEN FURTHER STUDY. (THERE WERE NO COMMENTS FROM THESE DELS ON SPECIFIC NUMBERS FOR THE THRESHOLD.)

4. SOVIETS SAID THEY FOUND US PROPOSAL "VERY INTERESTING" AND REQUIRING FURTHER STUDY ALONG WITH THEIR OWN PROPOSAL WHICH THEY REGARDED AS "BETTER-BALANCED." POLES EXPRESSED "GRATITUDE" FOR US PROPOSAL AND SAID THEY WERE GLAD US WAS NOT PRESSING FOR QUICK DECISION BECAUSE THEY INTENDED GIVE PROPOSAL FURTHER CONSIDERATION. POLISH REP EXPRESSED DOUBTS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE SHOULD BE ONLY ONE CRITERION FOR THRESHOLD APPLYING TO ALL PARTICIPATING STATES. HE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT LEAD TO "INEQUALITIES" IN CASE OF SMALL STATES. GDR REP SAID BOTH US AND SOVIET PROPOSALS CALLED FOR CAREFUL EXAMINATION, AT CSCE AND "PERHAPS ELSEWHERE AS WELL." HE SUGGESTED THAT SINCE NO CONSENSUS ON THRESHOLD QUESTION WAS AT HAND, SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD MOVE ON TO DISCUSSION OF OTHER PARAMETERS.

5. NUMBER OF NATO DELEGATIONS MADE STATEMENTS ENDORSING PROPOSAL AND, AMONG NEUTRALS, AUSTRIANS, SWISS, SWEDES, FINNS AND YUGOSLAVS MADE POSITIVE COMMENTS ON THE IDEA OF EXPRESSING THRESHOLD IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF TROOPS ONLY. AT DEC 6 MEETING, YUGOSLAVS PROPOSED ADDITION TO US TEXT DESIGNED COVER NEUTRALS' POSITION THAT NOTIFICATION SHOULD

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BE GIVEN OF SEPARATE AIR AND NAVAL MANEUVERS. YUGOSLAV TEXT READS: "THE TERM MAJOR MEANS MANEUVERS IN WHICH AT LEAST 12,000 TROOPS ARE INVOLVED AND, IN THE CASE OF AMPHIBIOUS OR AIRBORNE MANEUVERS, WHEN THEY EXCEED (BLANK) THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS." ALTHOUGH YUGOSLAVS DID NOT ON THIS OCCASION PROPOSE SPECIFIC MODIFICATION OF THE FIGURE 12,000, THEY AND OTHER NEUTRALS REITERATED SUPPORT FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PROPOSAL OF 18,000. THERE

WERE NO SUBSTANTIVE NATO OR WARSAW PACT COMMENTS ON THE
YUGOSLAV FORMULATION AND SUBCOMMITTEE SUBSEQUENTLY TURNED
TO DISCUSSION OF OTHER PARAMETERS.DALE

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